

ENCHANTED LAKE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

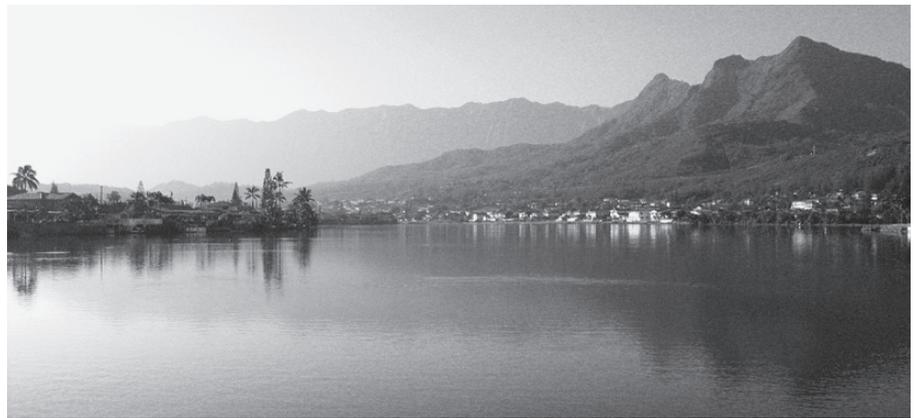
Newsletter

Spring 2009

Planning a Healthy Future for Enchanted Lake

What will Enchanted Lake be like 20 years from now? Will it be a healthy lake that residents of all ages can enjoy or will it be a smelly, shallow marsh filled with trash? It may seem obvious which lake we would like to live on, but without a long range plan that puts goals and principals in place, it is easy for an organization to focus on immediate problems and not put enough emphasis on the large projects that can take years or decades to complete.

No organization can truly move forward without having goals, and a good long range plan puts those goals in writing. With the long range plan,



Proposed Long Range Plan: Principles and Goals

1. Maintain and improve the value of lake properties.
2. Maintain and improve the ecosystem of Kaelepulu Pond/Enchanted Lake:
 - Optimize the water quality, fisheries, and recreational assets of the lake.
 - Maintain the ecology of the lake to optimize the value of functions and services for the community.
3. Maximize the role of Enchanted Lake in maintaining the water quality at Kailua Beach.
4. Maximize the aesthetic and recreational benefits of the lake and its environment to residents and the community.

you can plot a course to accommodate the needs of the community combined with the available resources. It can also support and justify requests for funding. With a plan in place you can show why funds are needed, what they will support, and who will benefit.

Board member Tom Vogt and his long range planning committee began the process of developing the proposed long range plan for Enchanted Lake last year.

The planning committee believes strongly that optimal long-term management of the lake requires support from many external constituencies including the surrounding community, the City & County of Honolulu, state and federal agencies, and interested volunteer and charitable organizations such as the Audubon Society and Kamehameha Schools Trust.

Enchanted Lake sits in the middle of a water system upon which it is completely dependent for water flow and water quality. External decisions determine the amount of silt and trash that collects in the lake, and solutions

to those problems require external involvement. A viable long range plan must deal with those other interests. The proposed plan is written to appeal both to lake residents and to these external groups.

The plan will be discussed and its adoption voted on at the homeowners annual meeting this coming September. After adoption of the plan, action committees will be formed for each area of focus. Each committee will identify and prioritize specific activities and establish timelines for each. These committees will communicate with each other on areas of overlap and representatives will report on their plans and actions at ELRA board meetings.

Please e-mail your comments on the principles and goals to the ELRA board (elra@kaelepulupond.org) so they can be considered and possibly incorporated into the plan that will be presented at the annual meeting.

The support of our lakeside community is vital to the success of this long range plan and we look forward to hearing from you!

Demolished Dock gets a Lift from new Work Barge

The boat dock owned by ELRA's president Debra Wessel was knocked off its legs in the last big wind and high-water storm. Several attempts to manually lift the dock were unsuccessful due to the weight of the dock – and the fact

that the wooden legs had rotted away. Kaelepulu's new work barge (owned by Hugo de Vries & Bob Bourke) was used to lift the dock back up to the desired height allowing a new set of fiberglass I-beam legs to be installed. With help

from Edward de Vries, Keoni Depon-te, and Ann Bourke, the dock was repaired, sanded, and given a fresh coat of paint. Debra's insurance took care of the repair costs, and we look forward to seeing her back cruising the lake on her barge.



Bob Bourke, center, stands on the new work barge. Bob coordinated the repair of the dock located at Kukilakila.

Legislative Update

By Rep. Pono Chong

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Representative in the State House. As we cross the half-way mark of this legislative session, I would like to give you a brief update on some of the local issues I have been working on.



I introduced legislation, HB 570 – Relating to Coastal Zone Management, that requires certain agencies to account for the rise in sea-level and to minimize coastal hazards. The bill also preserves shoreline access and extends shoreline setback to no less than 40 feet from the shoreline.

I also introduced a bill requesting funds to study erosion at Kailua beach. Related to this measure, I have written Department of Land and Natural Resources Director Laura Thielen asking her to release the \$250,000 that was appropriated last year for an engineering study and environmental assessment to restore water flow to Kailua waterways, including Kaelepulu Pond. I have also contacted our Congressional delegates for federal assistance on this matter.

On a statewide level, we will be working to address the \$1.8+ billion budget shortfall and ways to stabilize our economy. If you would like more information on any of these issues, please don't hesitate to call me at 586-9094.

The Ongoing Saga of the TMDL

As was reported in the last newsletter, the DOH has awarded a contract to continue data collection for the Total Maximum Daily Load EPA-funded project to the University of Hawaii team headed by Dr. Clyde Tamura. Previous contracts to study the problem have been awarded to:

- The UH to develop a sample and analyses plan,
- A graduate student to do a bacterial survey
- The USGS to hunt for sewerage-linked contaminants, and
- A UH-Maui researcher to test algae for pollutant uptake.

To date, none of the above studies have produced significant data that points to any serious pollutant issues or brings us any closer to actually completing the TMDL.

Fortunately, the new UH study is to focus on the actual water quality issues central to the problem in the lake – nutrients and sediments. Unfortunately, the study, which is supposed to be completed by next December, was awarded

too late to allow Clyde and his team to collect any data from this winter's rain/runoff storm events!

Clyde did come through for us however and provided three staff gages to measure water height in the lake. One has been installed in the wetland off Kiukee Place, one will be installed on the Lanikai pedestrian bridge, and the third will be installed in the canal near the Keolu Drive Bridge.

On Saturday, March 14, it began raining shortly after midnight and picked up with some good thunder and lightning at 4 am. By 8:30, six guys with shovels had just completed the first foot-wide trench through the sand berm and water began to flow out. Over the next 30 hours Bob Bourke and Hugo de Vries (with ample assistance from Edward de Vries and Ann Bourke) managed to collect a dozen water samples from the stream as it poured into the ocean across the beach. The samples were delivered to Clyde's lab at UH for analyses, but results have not yet been completed... stay tuned!

Long-serving ELRA Board Members Profiled

In our last newsletter we wrote about our three newest ELRA board members. This time we've interviewed the three who have been on the board the longest; Cal Clemmer, Mike Compton and Rod Castanha.

Cal Clemmer has been a member of the Enchanted Lake board since the early 1990s. Cal was born on a farm in Oklahoma, and arrived in Hawaii in 1948, compliments of the U.S. Army Signal Corps. Cal and his wife Betty moved to Kailua from Hilo in 1967. They bought a motorboat and explored the canals and Enchanted Lake. There were no restrictions, at least none that were enforced at that time. They were intrigued with vacant land on Ohiki Place, which jutted out into the lake. There were tents and people putting boats into the lake, so they assumed that it was a park. On one trip to the lake they noticed that a house was being built at the east end of this property. Cal remembers the day they saw the for sale by contractor sign with a phone number. "Betty and the two kids were so excited that I went back to get the phone number and immediately called Bob, the contractor. Bob explained that he was fed up with all the problems of building in Hawaii, and was selling the house as soon as it was appraised to the first buyer willing to pay the appraised price. I kept calling Bob to see if he had the appraisal and one day he had. He was disappointed at the low appraisal but he wanted out, and was selling. The next day, at the not so gentle urging of my wife, I started checking for financing, and was fortunate to be the first buyer with a bank commitment for the appraised price. That is how we ended up on the lake 48 years ago, and we still love it."

Cal's priorities on the board are keeping the lake clean, safe, and hopefully prevent it from being filled with other people's dirt and trash. The required lake maintenance fee is what Cal lists the most important thing that has occurred during his time on the board.

Cal has been retired since 1996. Now he keeps busy fixing things around the home, his church and helping with lake cleanup.

Mike Compton, a pilot with Hawaiian Airlines and the Hawaii Air National Guard, has lived on the lake and in Hawaii since 1969. He joined the board in 1997 or 1998 and for many years manned the lake security boat. He vividly remembers the 2 am phone call telling him about the drunk net-fishers trespassing on the lake. Luckily, the police came out in the security boat and helped them off the lake.

Mike loves living on the lake — watching the weather, fish, birds and the canoes. House projects, running, and flying keep Mike busy.

The security of the lake is important to Mike. He explains, "I want to protect the fish and birds for our children. I want everyone on the lake to care for it like it is their own backyard."

Another Hawaiian Airlines pilot on the ELRA board is Rod Castanha (retired in '86). Rod started out in Tulsa, Oklahoma and came to Hawaii in 1957 after spending time in Germany and California. Rod's been on the board for so many years it's hard for him to remember when he started, but a calculated guess puts it around '85 or '86. Rob quipped, "At that time Bob Tassie was our President, I flew a lot with Patti Tassie (Flight Stew) and she coerced me into working with Bob on the Board. Thanks Pattie, I'm still here!"

Rod's memories of board activities include working every couple of months on lake clean-ups, removing king-size mattresses, grocery carts and more. "Back then everything was removed through the boat ramp," Rod notes. "We used to back Tom Stone's truck down the ramp, and I can remember Mary Stone and I making 3 to 4 trips to the dump each cleanup. I couldn't wait to get home to take a shower."

The privacy and the coolness of the wind blowing in over the water are Rod's favorite things about living on

the lake. "In the older days when our children were growing up we fished and water-skied every week. Our children and their friends were always here and had something to do."

Rod's highest priority as a board member is to keep our lake as clean and usable as possible.

Rod loves to golf although it's hard for him to find the time, he's also fully restored a 1957 T-Bird. Rod is currently working in real estate with Earl Thacker, Limited.

These three dedicated board members have collectively spent more than 48 years on the ELRA board. They deserve a big round of applause!

City Awards Mangrove Removal Contract

The City Department of Facilities Maintenance has awarded a contract to remove mangrove from Kaelepu Canal to C K Construction Corp. The work extends from the ocean up Kaelepu Canal to the boundary with ELRA, and up Kawainui Canal just past the Awakea Street Bridge. Clinton Kawa, president of CKC, says they will be doing the work in two key phases: First, removal of the primary leafy vegetation above the roots, and then Second; coming back to cut the roots and trunks down to within 6-inches of the water level. Seeing as how the lake is quite low right now, that should work quite well. The CKC contract does NOT include removal of accumulated trash caught up in the mangrove, so we can expect a huge load of junk to come washing out onto Kailua Beach with the next big rainfall and stream mouth opening. The contract does NOT include coming back in 6 months to remove the newly sprouted keiki mangroves, either. We may need to talk to our new councilman about that! Any comments on the clearing should be directed to Thomas Takiuchi at 768 3605.

School Volunteer Project Leads to Haz-Mat Response at Kukilakila

The Kailua Fire Department Hazardous Materials Response team was called by Kukilakila Maintenance manager when he noted a plume of red fluid spilling out of the storm drain into the lake near the boat ramp area. The response team analyzed the effluent with their field check kit and determined that the effluent did not trigger any serious hazardous wastes. Following a drainage map provided by ELRA, the firemen set out into the neighborhood to locate possible sources of the red coloration.

The search terminated in the trash bin at Kukilakila Elementary School where paint trays and other supplies had been discarded following a community volunteer effort to re-paint the red curbs within the school drive way. Apparently the water used in cleaning the paint brushes and rollers was allowed to wash down into the storm drain — and right out into the lake.

This is an excellent lesson for all of us. Please remember that everything

that gets washed into the storm drains goes into the lake. In this case the paint, although quite visible and obvious, was not highly toxic. In other cases when oils, pesticides, chemicals, bleach, or many other substances are dumped into the drains they will not be recognizable as a visible plume, but will have very bad impacts on the fish and invertebrates that live in our lake.

When cleaning equipment used with water-based paints, just clean them in a sink that drains to the city sewers. When cleaning equipment in gas or paint thinner, just allow the used thinner to evaporate and dispose of soiled equipment in the trash.

Help keep our lake clean.

Top right: The Kailua Fire department investigates the spill.

Right: The mysterious plume is visible coming from the storm drain and into the lake.



Enchanted Lake Residents Association

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED